



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
3 July 2002

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination

Forty-second session

10 June to 5 July 2002

Agenda item 9

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its
forty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Alejandro Torres Lépori (Argentina)

Addendum

Programme Questions: proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Item 4 (b)

Programme 9 Trade and development

1. At its 11th meeting, on 18 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 9, Trade and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 9)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of them.

Discussion

3. Support for the programme of work and appreciation for the activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in support of the least developed countries were expressed. The view was expressed that the proposed revisions were fully in accordance with the Bangkok Declaration and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 56/227. However, questions were raised regarding the wording of the last sentence of the overall orientation (para. 9.1), and it was mentioned that other internationally agreed goals should have been included other than those of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Concern was also



expressed that the proposed revisions did not define more explicitly the responsibilities of UNCTAD as a result of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as the coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

4. Support was expressed to the work of UNCTAD, in particular in relation to the provision of technical assistance to developing countries, in order to support their integration into the world economy and to help them in addressing the problems associated with the globalization process.

5. The view was expressed that the reference to official development assistance in paragraph 9.1 should be deleted because UNCTAD had no mandate in that field.

6. Questions were raised regarding the rationale for the proposal to delete the phrase "contribution to the graduation of least developed countries" in paragraph 9.28 since the graduation from the category of least developed countries should be the ultimate objective to be achieved. It was suggested that that proposal be reviewed.

7. It was also suggested that the strategy section be reviewed in order to be more general and to refer to the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action in its entirety. The view was expressed that the references to "relevant outcomes" of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (paras. 9.28 and 9.29) and to "relevant parts of the outcomes" (para. 9.30) were not appropriate since the programme should be implemented as a whole and not partially.

8. The view was expressed that the document could be improved by mentioning a closer coordination and cooperation with other bodies working with international trade, including the World Trade Organization, and referring to the outcomes of the Doha and Monterrey conferences.

9. The Secretariat was asked about the changes that had arisen since the Third United Nations Conference of the Least Developed Countries and their implications for the functions of UNCTAD and the coordination of work with the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 9, Trade and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:

Paragraph 9.1

- In the third sentence, delete the words "the relevant aspects of" before the words "the Programme of action for the Least Developed Countries";
- At the end of the third sentence add the words "and the outcome of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (Doha, 2001) and the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development (Monterrey, 2002), as approved by the General Assembly";

- Replace the last sentence with the following sentence: "Through the implementation of the Bangkok Plan of Action, the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) and the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (General Assembly resolution 56/95), the Brussels Programme of Action and the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, as approved by the General Assembly, UNCTAD would contribute to the attainment of internationally agreed goals, particularly in relation to trade, investment, debt and resource mobilization, including official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other private financial flows.";
- Add the following sentence after the last sentence: "The programme would enhance its operational capacities in the activities of UNCTAD aimed at supporting recipient countries, especially developing countries, and in particular the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States."

Paragraph 9.3

Add a final sentence reading: "Supporting developing countries through the pursuit of the objectives of UNCTAD in the current and forthcoming negotiations in the World Trade Organization is a particular priority during the period of this medium-term plan".

Paragraph 9.4

Delete the third sentence ("The strategy to be followed takes into account the emphasis by Member States at the tenth session of UNCAD on the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point for the United Nations system for least developed country issues.").

Paragraph 9.6

In the second sentence, replace the words "the focal role of UNCTAD with regard to work concerning" with the words "UNCTAD's work on".

Paragraph 9.15

Delete the indicators and substitute the text used for indicators in other subprogrammes:

"Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the timeliness, usefulness, degree of implementation and quality of the subprogramme's research and analysis programme, as measured by readership and other surveys; (b) the views of Member States on the practical value and impact on the development prospects of developing countries of policy recommendations, as expressed in the conclusions of the regular review of the work programmes undertaken by intergovernmental bodies; and (c) the degree of implementation, effectiveness and impact of technical cooperation activities, as assessed by indicators contained in the relevant project documents."

Paragraph 9.21

In the second sentence, after the words "WTO itself", add the words "in particular the Doha work programme".

Paragraph 9.28

- Delete the word "relevant" before the words "outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries";
- The phrase at the end of the paragraph should be expanded to read as follows: "and to contribute to the eventual graduation of the least developed countries by meeting objective criteria as agreed intergovernmentally".

Paragraph 9.29

- In subparagraph (i), insert the words "and competence" after the word "expertise";
- In subparagraph (iv), delete the words "the relevant" before the words "aspects of the Barbados Programme of Action".

Paragraph 9.30

In the first sentence, delete the words "the relevant parts of the".

Legislative mandates

Add the following entry:

56/198 — Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States